

House Resolution 1287 (RULES COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Sims of the 169th and Hembree of the 67th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Public Libraries Study Committee; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the current legal model for governance of public libraries in Georgia was
3 established in the 1940's and since that time the population of the state has nearly tripled and
4 its demographic patterns have changed greatly; and

5 WHEREAS, the statutes dealing with the state library administrative agency have not been
6 amended in over 20 years except in transferring its operation from the Department of
7 Education to the Department of Technical and Adult Education in 1996 and transferring its
8 operation to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia in 2000; and

9 WHEREAS, over \$30 million of state funds and over \$165 million of local funds are
10 expended annually to support public libraries; and

11 WHEREAS, there is a growing need for greater accountability in the use of local, state, and
12 federal funding for public libraries; and

13 WHEREAS, there has been no formal study of public libraries initiated by the General
14 Assembly in recent history.

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
16 there is created the House Public Libraries Study Committee. The Speaker of the House of
17 Representatives shall appoint five members of the House of Representatives as members of
18 the committee and shall designate one of such members as chairperson. The committee shall
19 include three local government officials as follows: one city official, elected or appointed,
20 to be appointed by the Georgia Municipal Association; one county official, elected or
21 appointed, to be appointed by the Association County Commissioners of Georgia; and one

1 board of education official, elected or appointed, to be appointed by the Georgia School
2 Boards Association. The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the appointing authorities named above are requested
4 to make their appointments by May 1, 2006.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Georgia Public Library Service is requested to
6 provide staff resources and assistance to the committee. The following agencies are requested
7 to make their personnel and expertise available to consult with and provide information to
8 the committee: Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts; Georgia Bureau of
9 Investigation; Georgia Department of Revenue; Governor's Office of Planning and Budget;
10 State Grants Advisory Council of the Georgia Public Library Service; and Office of the
11 Attorney General of the State of Georgia.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
13 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action
14 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
15 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
16 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
17 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The legislative members of the
18 committee shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official
19 Code of Georgia Annotated. Members who are part-time local officials shall receive a daily
20 expense allowance in the amount specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the
21 Official Code of Georgia Annotated as well as the mileage or transportation allowance
22 authorized for state employees. Any members who are full-time government officials or
23 employees may be reimbursed for expenses by the employing governmental unit. All funds
24 necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds appropriated
25 to the House of Representatives. The expenses and allowances authorized by this resolution
26 shall not be received by any member of the committee for more than three days unless
27 additional days are authorized. In the event the committee makes a report of its findings and
28 recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be
29 made on or before December 31, 2006. The committee shall stand abolished on December
30 31, 2006.